

Shebab: more attacks after
Uganda bombings pg 2

Argentina legalizes
gay marriage pg 4

Special performance at
Oly Pool Savaneta pg 5

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Friday, July 16, 2010

THE MORNING NEWS

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BP stops Gulf oil flow for first time since April

WASHINGTON (AFP) – BP engineers yesterday stopped oil flowing into the Gulf of Mexico for the first time since April as they shut all valves on a new cap placed on top of a fractured wellhead, a BP official said.

"It is good to see no oil going into the Gulf of Mexico," said senior vice president Kent Wells, but he cautioned: "We are just starting the test."

He said the oil flow stopped as the last of three valves on a huge capping stack was shut at around 2:25 yesterday, but engineers were keeping a close eye on the operation to see whether any oil began leaking again.

It was the biggest step forward in halting the worst oil spill in US history which has been flowing into the sea since a BP-leased rig sank on April 22, two days after a major explosion on the deepwater drilling platform.

Experts have estimated some 35,000 to 60,000 barrels a day have been flowing into the Gulf for some 13 weeks, leaving millions of gallons sloshing around in the waters, threatening vulnerable wildlife and fouling the shores of five Gulf states.

BP's chief operating officer Doug Suttles warned however it was not yet time to celebrate, saying more time was needed as a 48-hour test is completed.

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Mark and Jill Brooks of Bow, New Hampshire, have been coming to the Caribbean Palm Village here on Aruba since 1990, and their children, Ashley and Ryan grew up knowing this beautiful Island was their "home away from home." Soon Ashley will be going to college to

study to be a teacher-psychologist for children with learning disabilities, but, the yearly trip to Aruba will always be in her schedule.

Twenty years ago, on Mark and Jill's first trip here, they fell in love with the Island, its pristine beaches, arid countryside, rough north

coast, and the friendly people, and made a lifelong commitment to this Island paradise by buying a time share at the CPV, and the rest is history.

Photos by photographer Diane Keijzer show the happy family enjoying their vacation.

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Shebab threaten more U.S. monitors: June Earth's attacks after Uganda bombings

KAMPALA, Uganda (AFP) - Somalia's Al-Qaeda-linked Shebab yesterday vowed further attacks after two deadly bombings in Uganda, as Kampala said it would send more troops to boost the African Union force in Mogadishu.

Sunday's bomb attacks on entertainment spots in Kampala where crowds were watching the World Cup final killed at least 73 people and underscored the risk posed by the Somali rebel movement to the entire region.

"What happened in Kampala is just the beginning," elusive Shebab leader Mohamed Abdi Godane said in an audio message broadcast on several Mogadishu radio stations.

The Shebab -- fighting Somalia's Western-backed transitional government -- said the blasts were in retaliation for the presence of more than 3,000 Ugandan troops in the embattled African Union mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

"We are telling all Muslims and particularly the people of Mogadishu that those martyred in AMISOM shelling will be avenged," he added.

Godane said the Kampala

attacks were carried out by a unit named the Saleh Nabhan Brigade after a Kenyan-born Al-Qaeda operative allegedly behind 2002 anti-Israeli attacks in Mombasa and killed in a suspected US air raid last year.

Uganda could provide 2,000 more soldiers for the African Union force, an army spokesman said yesterday, following a decision this month by a regional body to bring AMISOM to its full strength of 8,100.

"We are capable of providing the required force if other countries fail to do so," spokesman Felix Kulayigye told AFP. "I should say, however, that I think it is appropriate that other countries contribute."

The United States welcomed Uganda's decision and pledged to boost its own aid to the force, the main obstacle preventing the Shebab from seizing full control of Mogadishu.

"We have reviewed, since Sunday, the support that we're providing to AMISOM. We are going to beef that up," State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said.

U.S. monitors: June Earth's hottest ever

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Last month was the hottest June ever recorded on Earth, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said yesterday, amid global climate warming worries.

The combined global land and ocean surface temperature data also found the January-June and April-June periods were the warmest on record, according to NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, which based its findings on measurements that go back as far as 1880.

In June, the combined average for global land and ocean temperatures was 61.1 degrees Fahrenheit (16.2 Celsius) -- 1.22 degrees Fahrenheit (0.68

Celsius) more than the 20th century average of 59.9 degrees Fahrenheit (15.5 Celsius).

Temperatures warmer than average spread throughout the globe in recent months, most prominently in Peru, in the central and eastern United States and in eastern and western Asia, according to NOAA.

In contrast, cooler-than-average conditions affected Scandinavia, southern China and the US northwest.

Spain's nationwide temperatures made June the coolest in 13 years, according to its meteorological surface.

Global ocean surface temperatures averaged 0.97 degrees (0.54 Celsius) above last century's average of 61.5 de-

grees Fahrenheit (16.4 Celsius) -- the fourth warmest June since records began. The Atlantic Ocean saw the most pronounced warmth, NOAA said.

The average land surface temperature that month was 1.93 degrees Fahrenheit (1.07 Celsius) more than the 20th century average of 55.9 degrees Fahrenheit (13.3 Celsius) -- the warmest ever.

Meanwhile, sea surface temperatures were declining throughout the equatorial Pacific Ocean, in line with the end of El Niño, a climate pattern that lasts an average of five years during which unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean move east.

Freed dissidents say disease rampant at Cuban jails

MADRID, Spain (AFP) - Cuban dissidents recently released by Havana said yesterday disease was rampant in the damp, crowded and rat-infested prisons where they were held while water was scarce and food came with dirt.

"The hygiene and health situation was not bad, it was worse than bad," Julio Cesar Galvez told reporters in Madrid, two days after arriving in Spain with six other dissidents.

"We lived with rats, cockroaches, scorpions and excrement. There were outbreaks of dengue fever, or tuberculosis," he added.

Galvez was among a first batch of 52 dissidents authorized to leave the country in the biggest release of political prisoners by Cuba in over a decade.

The 65-year-old, who was serving a 15-year sentence for secretly working for US media outlets such as the Voice of America, said not enough drinking water was provided for the prisoners and food often came mixed with dirt.

"The soup was called giraffe's soup because you had to crane your neck to see what was inside it," he said.

Galvez said up to 40 prisoners at the Villa Clara prison where he was serving his sentence were packed into cells measuring a few square metres.

There was just one tank with 50 gallons (190 litres) of "contaminated" water that was replenished only once a day, he added.

Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, another one of the dissidents who arrived Tuesday, said political prisoners were placed in jails hundreds of kilometers

(miles) from their hometowns so as to separate them from their families.

The constant damp in the jails had affected many of them, the 60-year-old said. "Many people became physically sick."

Alfonso was serving a 20-year prison term for secretly working for the Paris-based media watchdog Reporters Without Borders.

The seven dissidents who arrived on Tuesday were accompanied by 33 close family members. Four more dissidents arrived on Wednesday and yesterday along with 25 family members.

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Aruba National Archives receives special visit



Recently, the Aruba National Archive received a visit of a group of 18 persons who took the course of the history of

Aruba. The course was organized by Aruba National Library coordinator Mrs. Judith Ling and given by Mr. Randolph Vrolijk, a teacher at Colegio Arubano. Department Head Drs. Raymond Hernandez received the group, while Mr. Nelson Thiel gave them a tour around the premises where they could admire the exposition.

The Aruba National Archive has a lot of information on Aruba's history. Afterwards the group saw an impressive movie of Aruba in the years 50. At the end of this entertaining visit the group received a certificate.

Management of the Aruba National Archive expressed its satisfaction with this visit and invites all other groups or persons interested in a visit to call them at 583-4880 for an appointment.

Road repair in front of the Paddock

ORANJESTAD – The Department of Public Works, DOW, announces to the general public and all the small businesses alongside the small wharf that on Monday, July 19, they will start repairing the road between Café Paddock and the small wharf.

The department will work on two systems to enable the flow of rainwater to the sea. The road will be closed between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. with barricades and traffic signs. The repair job will last five days. All motorists, businesses and other users are asked to keep this in mind.

DOW apologizes for any inconveniences this may cause.

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Minister de Meza visits the free zone



Minister Mike de Meza and staff members Cindy Clark, policy advisor fiscal affairs, and Richard Arends, policy advisor, in conversation with Greg Peterson.



Recently Minister Mike de Meza visited Free Zone Aruba (FZA) NV. During the visit many different issues were discussed, such as legislation, e-commerce, the competitive position of Aruba vis-à-vis the BES-islands with regards to fiscal changes, the introduction of Paypal to facilitate foreign payments, and the move to Barcadera.

By carrying out some changes to modernize the free zone, the free zone can play a greater role as diversification

instrument for the Aruban economy.

The Minister was accompanied by some staff members, who will play a supporting role in the process of change and renewal.

The director of FZA NV, Greg Peterson, was very pleased with the visit of his new Minister: "finally some crucial steps can be taken to benefit the Aruban economy in general and the free zone in particular."

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Argentina legalizes gay marriage in first for Latin America



Gay couple Alejandro Freyre (L) and Jose Maria Di Bello walk near the Congress building during a demonstration supporting a gay marriage bill, while Senators discussed said bill for same sex marriage in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AFP) – Argentina yesterday became the first country in Latin America to legalize same-sex marriage, following a landmark Senate vote which stirred controversy in the majority Roman Catholic nation.

The law was backed by the center-left government of President Cristina Kirchner and adopted in a 33-27 vote, with three abstentions, after 15 hours of debate.

"It's a positive step which defends the right of the minority in Argentina," Kirchner said to Argentine media yesterday during a visit to China.

The issue raised heated debate in this nation of 40 million, 90 percent of whom describe themselves as Roman Catholic.

Hundreds of people cheered outside the Senate as the bill passed, with some chanting

"equality, equality," and other tearful couples embracing each other.

As priests and their supporters held images of the Virgin Mary and prayed in the street, some gay and leftist campaigners shouted: "Church, you garbage. You're a dictatorship."

Police had to separate opposing groups who hurled eggs and oranges at each other outside the Senate the previous day.

Meanwhile, in Mexico City, the tourism minister yesterday offered a free honeymoon to the first gay couple to wed in Argentina.

The offer was "in recognition of tolerance, but also to promote gay friendly tourism in Mexico City," said Alejandro Rojas, according to a statement.

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Back Then

• Back then a restaurateur who often visited Aruba, brought for local friends a carton of restaurant-sized jars of dried herbs and spices not yet available on the island. The customs officer had him open a few, asked what they were but was not familiar with the English names. Told to take a deep breath, he did and staggered back, the garlic powder was very strong. He then tried to have the man arrested because he thought a jar of chopped dried basil was marijuana.



• Before it was the Westin Resort, it was the Wyndham, and before that for a few minutes the Hilton. In its original form it was the Concorde. The architects made some serious errors in the construction with a staircase that floated badly from the ground floor lobby to the first floor lobby and placing the ramp outside up to that lobby in the wrong place so the wind would slam doors on tourists exiting taxis. One time a door was actually torn off a car at the top of the ramp. All they needed to do was ask the local fishermen who would have told them to turn the building at an angle so that the wind wouldn't be



a factor. They had to battle it during the seasons and the tides. It was called the Dama Colina factor. He who once had to row all the way into the harbor of Maracaibo, Venezuela when the engine of his boat died.



• The finest feature of the Concorde back then was Edgar Connors and his steel band which played on weekends outside at the pool bar. This was before electronics; his was as authentic in concept and design as the originals built from refinery drums in Trinidad.

One day Edgar's group began playing the opening movement of Beethoven's 5th Symphony. A tourist stared open-mouthed and went over to stand in front of the band as they played. When the selection was over and applause subsided, the tourist sat down and started sputtering that he was professor of music at New York University and it was not possible for a steel band to play Beethoven with such quality.

But he didn't know Edgar Connors!

• One day not long after the opening of the casino at the Carib, there were not enough quarters for the slot machines. None were available here back then. Sir Gerry Tromp, the station manager for KLM at JFK (ah, those were the days of grand customer service) was asked to oversee the loading of bags of coins to be delivered here. He did, called the casino to tell them they were on board. Employees were sent to the airport, the old one, but couldn't find them anywhere. Sir Gerry oversaw the shipping of another batch. About a week later an airport employee tried to pay his electric bill in US quarters. The police announced with straight faces, though it was difficult, that the quarter bandit has been caught.

• And yes, it is the correct spelling on police cars: POLIS is the Dutch word for police. Because Aruba is an independent part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the official language is Dutch. Did you know that the expression in English, "Dutch Courage," was created by the British who were fighting against Spain in Holland during the Dutch War of Independence in the late 16th century? They were given a juniper-flavored drink which gave them the courage to fight on. It was soon called "gin."

Art Rules Aruba kicks off today!



Pancake Gallery Foundation founders Ira and Ayra Kip have been preparing Aruba for a while now for what will be the Arts event of the year.

Turning Aruba upside down to realize Aruba's first international Arts program the Pancake Gallery introduces an intensive workshop program in 7 Art disciplines including Dance, Theater, Rap & Poetry, DJ-ing, Fashion, Photography & Design and Film. With 250 students between the age of 14 and 21 receiving the opportunity to learn from international professionals Aruba's teens will get the ultimate experience to advance their creative talents and skills.

Creating an immense buzz around the Island and abroad, when word got out about Art Rules, several organizations soon came to show their support. With lead supporters Unoca, Prins Bernard Cultuur Fonds and even Fonds voor Cultuur Participate from the Netherlands getting on board, the message is being sent out that Arts Education is a priority for Aruba's Youth!

This statement comes not only from government

funded organizations, even the Hotel Industry got on board with support coming not only from AHATA but also directly from Aruba's leading hotels including Playa Linda, La Cabana and The Marriott. Pancake Gallery founders are proud to say that "The goodwill of Aruba's local businesses have made a statement by supporting us and allowing us to realize a vision that is all about creating opportunities for the youth of the island".

Ira and Ayra Kick Off Art Rules Aruba today at the Surfside Marina in Oranjestad.

Introducing all the teachers and participants at a live press conference, sharing with public what happens when New York, London, Amsterdam, Quebec, Chicago, Rotterdam and Washington DC meets Aruba.

Experience this for yourself when all participants take the stage at Cas Di Cultura on July 31st 2010. Showing to the public what they have learned in the 2 week program, participant present an exclusive Theatrical Multimedia Art Exhibition and Performance.

Tickets for the Art Rules Aruba showcase can be purchased at Cas di Cultura, Unoca and Scol Di Arte. For more information you can also visit www.artrulesaruba.com



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Barracudas Synchronized Swimming Club hosts the Canadian Olympic Synchronized Swimming team

July 20th: special performance for the Aruban public at the pool in Savaneta

On Tuesday July 20th from 7 pm until 9 pm the Canadian Olympic Synchronized swimming selection will be giving an amazing show for the Aruban Community at the Olympic Pool in Savaneta. These ladies represented Canada in the Beijing Olympics 2 years ago and will also be in the Olympics in 2 years.

The Canadians is well known historically for their top performances in synchronized swimming.

Our own Aruban Selection team of ladies from 15 to 18 years of age, who will be representing Aruba in Puerto Rico later this month, will also be participating in this



The Canadian team in action

show. The Canadian team, with at the helm, world known trainer Julie Suárez, are here on the island to assist

our selection in their preparation for the Central American and Caribbean Games (CAC) which will take place in

Puerto Rico. Different training sessions have taken place where the two teams are training together in the

Olympic Pool at Savaneta. Our goal in this competition will be to classify for the Panamerican Games 2011.

The Aruban team consist of: Anouk Eman, Nikita Pablo, Anna Posner, Carondina Leijdekkers, Janelle Flemming, Saskia Franken, Kiara van Trikt y Amanda Maduro.

The entrance fee on Tuesday night will be only Awg 5.00.

Our Aruban selection team of ages 12 and under and also 13 to 15 years of age just returned from a competition in Peru where they won gold in their team performance against Peru, Colombia, Brazil and Venezuela.



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daily: 4:45			
matinee: 12:00 2:30		late show: 11:45	
PG KNIGHT & DAY	6:30 9:00		
daily: 4:00			
matinee: 1:30		late show: 11:30	
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Science/Tech

Experts skeptical about 'digital drugs' claims by teens

Between smoking banana peels, suffocating each other and eating nutmeg, it seems like teenagers will do nearly anything to get the high associated with illegal drug use. But if educators at Mustang High School in Mustang, Oklahoma are to be believed, an even more unlikely pseudo-drug has found its way into common use: psychedelic music and tones that can be downloaded through the Internet.

But drug experts are highly skeptical that such "digital drugs," or "i-doses" as some are calling it, are actually harmful or addictive.

Teenagers at the high school claim that listening to these monotonous, layered

sounds in a dark room can cause the same effects as ingesting illegal drugs like marijuana or LSD. The problem has reached the point where Mustang High School recently sent a letter to parents warning them about this growing trend.

However, the parents shouldn't worry, as the music almost certainly does not cause a high, or encourage future drug use, said Harriet de Wit, the principle investigator of the University of Chicago's human behavioral pharmacology lab.

Although experiments show that the expectation of getting high can enhance the symptoms associated with drugs, even when someone

takes a placebo instead, no sound or music could trigger the exact pathways activated by specific drugs like PCP or Quaaludes, de Wit said. [Read "12 Trippy Apps for your iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch"]

Similarly, even if the teenagers did experience some form of placebo effect, it wouldn't be strong enough to cause addiction or the decision making and coordination impairments that results from taking drugs like ketamine and peyote, de Wit said.

"It's unlikely to cause any problems," de Wit said.

The Placebo effect "is a very moderate effect, and the problems you see with drugs are associated with high dosages."

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HEALTH

Dementia may differ in those with and without diabetes

Vascular disease, which affects blood flow in brain vessels, appears to be a common cause of dementia in some people with diabetes, new study findings suggest.

That's in contrast to dementia in people without diabetes, which the researchers say is more likely to be linked to the brain plaque deposits

commonly seen in people with Alzheimer's disease.

The findings come from researchers at the Mayo Clinic's Florida campus and the University of California, San Francisco, who compared the ratios of two different types of amyloid beta proteins in blood samples from 211 people with dementia

and 403 others without dementia.

"This helps in understanding diabetes and dementia. It suggests that the vascular dementia seen in diabetics, which appears to be related to small blood vessel disease and strokes, can potentially be averted if development of diabetes is prevented," neurologist Dr. Neill Graff-Radford said in a Mayo Clinic news release.

The study findings were slated for presentation July 14 at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease meeting, in Hawaii.

The findings support previous autopsy studies on people with diabetes and dementia, which found vascular abnormalities were related to dementia but not to the plaques and tangles characteristic of Alzheimer's disease, the authors noted in the news release.



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Health Tip: Eating a Well-Balanced Vegetarian Diet



Eating a well-balanced diet is important for everyone, and vegetarians are no exception. Some nutrients may be more difficult to come by without meat in the diet, requiring some advanced planning.

The U.S. National Library of Medicine says vitamins D and B12, as well as proteins, zinc, iron and riboflavin may be lacking in a vegetarian diet.

Fish, soy, milk or eggs are good sources of protein for vegetarians who choose to eat them. Combining foods such as fortified cereals, rice and beans, breads or peanut butter also can provide sufficient proteins, the agency says.

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Map of Aruba showing streets and landmarks:

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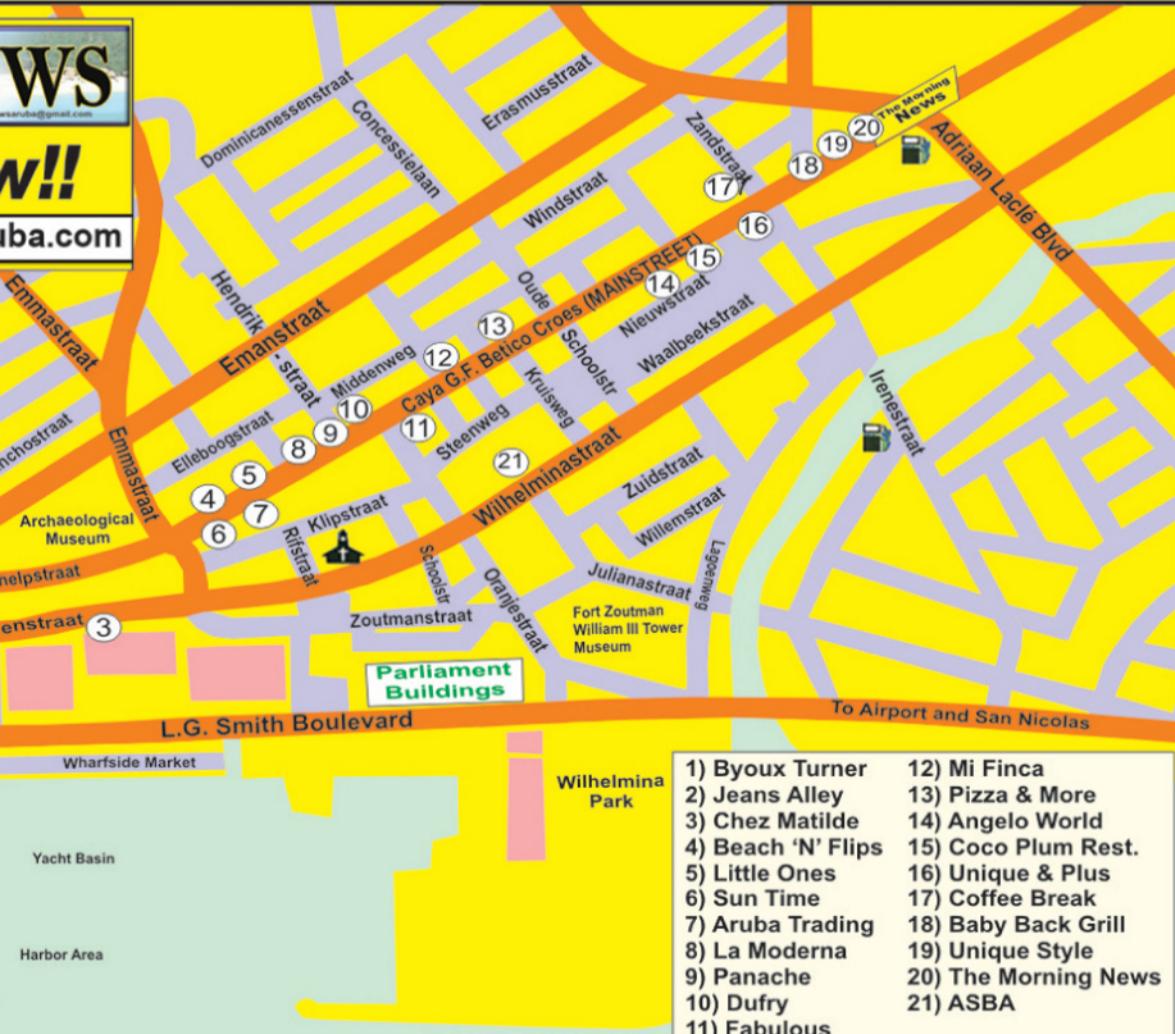
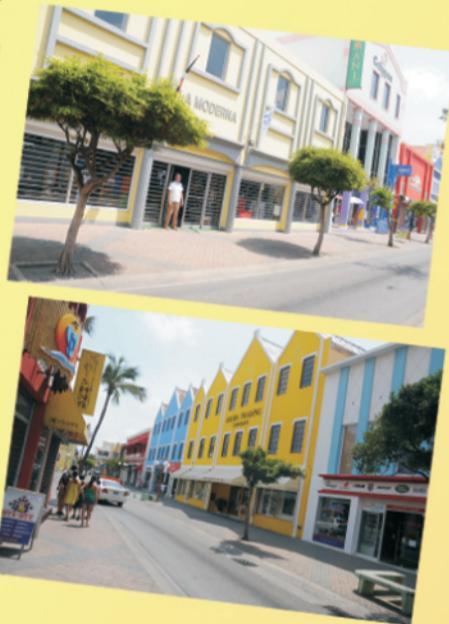
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cigars, Dutch Delft, Dutch
china, and *many* more superior
and favorably priced goods.



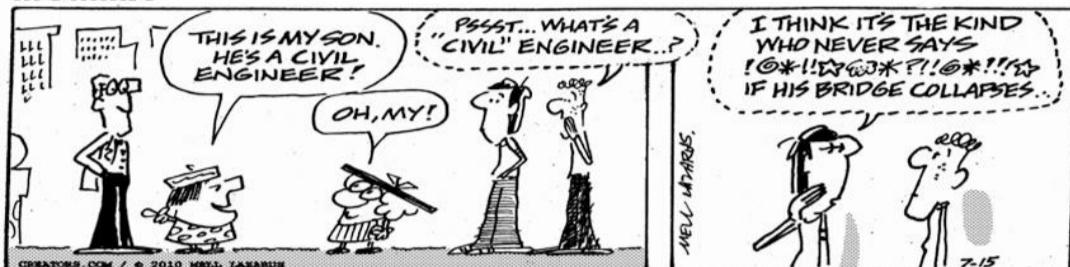
CAR TOONS



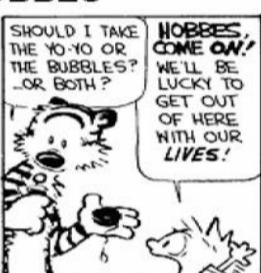
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



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CROSSWORD

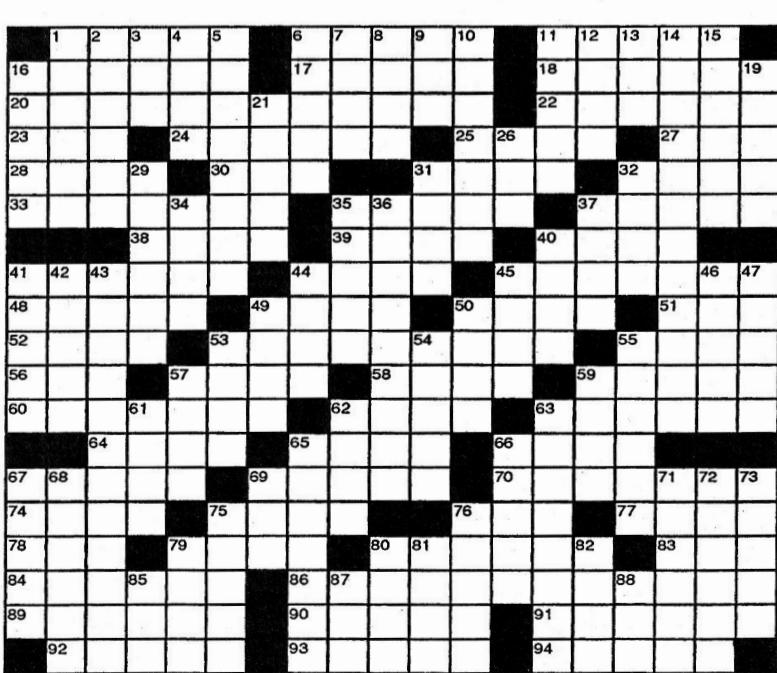
ACROSS
 1. Winter wear
 6. Explosion
 11. "Guys and ____"
 16. Cheap cigar
 17. Boost
 18. "____ Delight"
 20. Presley song
 22. Enid Bagnold heroine
 23. Violinist Bull
 24. Actress Verdugo et al.
 25. Old World deer
 27. Hebrew priest
 28. Saucy
 30. Follower: suffix
 31. Songstress Vikki
 32. Phone or bird
 33. Competitor
 35. Candied
 37. 1939 Oscar actor
 38. Actress Swenson
 39. Caroline's grandmother
 40. Intrepid
 41. Rooms: Fr.
 44. "____ Only Just Begun"
 45. Animal raiser
 48. Like ____ from the blue
 49. History fact
 50. Listen to
 51. Guido's high note
 52. State chief execs.
 53. "____ Song"
 (Freed and Brown)
 55. Take the sun
 56. Hail: Latin
 57. Female horse
 58. Spooky: var.
 59. Adorable one
 60. Revitalized
 62. ____ example
 63. Author Willa
 64. Military assistant
 65. Temper tantrums
 66. Fortified wine
 67. Vends
 69. Viking
 70. Current units
 74. Seize
 75. In a high degree
 76. Hydrocarbon suffix
 77. Cold cuts
 78. Simple sugar
 79. Seep
 80. Bring to an end
 83. Cover
 84. Hairsplitter
 86. Arlen song
 89. American terrapin

90. Hopeless case
 91. Harangued
 92. Small drum
 93. Untrue
 94. Christened

 DOWN
 1. "____ Kisses"
 2. Clandestine
 3. Application question
 4. Granular ice particles
 5. Song often played at weddings
 6. London borough
 7. Singer Cantrell
 8. Helps
 9. Compass pt.
 10. Patio
 11. Frogman
 12. Keats works
 13. "____ Abner"
 14. Woody Allen film
 15. Actress Stevens
 16. Ski hill
 19. Wading bird
 21. Seed covering
 26. Mined matter

 29. Musical shakes
 31. Packing box
 32. Songwriter Porter
 34. Dill, of old
 35. Actress Garbo
 36. Romantic hideaways
 37. Activist
 40. Scottish hillside
 41. Astronomer Carl
 42. Over
 43. Gershwin song
 44. Carry on
 45. Group of quail
 46. "____ Dinsmore"
 47. Lawn worker
 49. Mild oath
 50. Trumpet
 53. Peel
 54. Rental agreement
 55. Rammed
 57. Trendsetters
 59. Cavil

 61. Ill temper
 62. Well-ventilated
 63. Find accidentally
 65. Alien
 66. Chinese bear
 67. Bus route points
 68. Art stands
 69. Pince-____
 71. Empathize
 72. Slurred over
 73. Became a partisan
 75. A ____ sante!
 76. January: Sp.
 79. Extraordinary thing
 80. Habit
 81. Currier's partner
 82. India rubber
 85. Oklahoma city
 87. Card game of forfeits
 88. Batter



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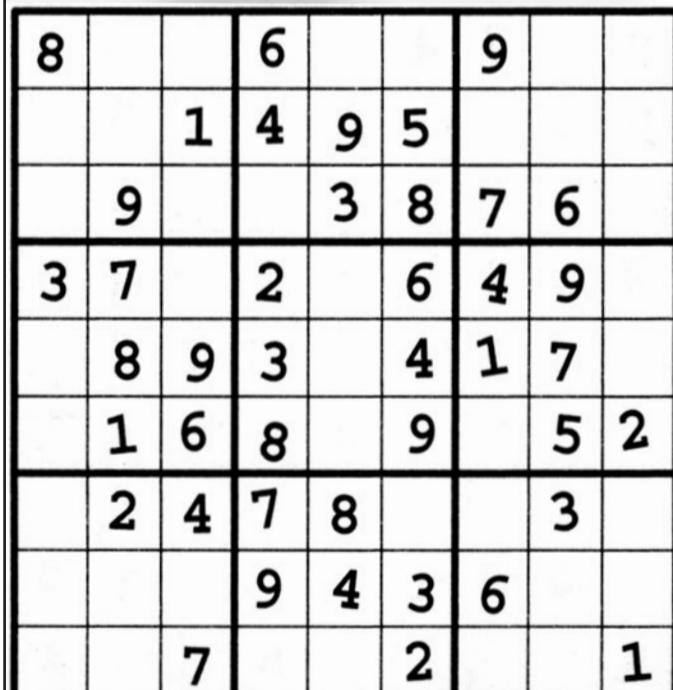
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	3	7	5	6	2	8	4	1
1	5	8	9	4	3	6	2	7
6	2	4	7	8	1	5	3	9
4	1	6	8	7	9	3	5	2
2	8	9	3	2	1	6	4	7
3	7	5	4	1	7	6	2	8
5	9	2	1	3	8	7	6	4
7	6	1	4	9	5	2	8	3
8	4	3	6	2	7	9	1	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance



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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

PUZZLE 122

CUP	SHE	STEM
USE	WAGE	CARE
EARRINGS	OGLE	
FANG	CLOSET	
GROPE	TRAP	
OARS	MAID	DAM
ARM	HOBBY	ENE
DES	ABLE	SCOT
RISE	SHONE	
DESERT	SPAR	
IDEA	ESTIMATE	
MEND	RUIN	TOO
ENDS	SERE	ERN

ECB warns some eurozone jobs gone for good

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) – The European Central Bank warned yesterday that some job losses caused by the economic crisis could be permanent and urged eurozone countries to speed up labour market reforms.

After employment fell by 2.6 percent between mid-2008 and late 2009, certain industrial sectors "may now need to be permanently downsized," the ECB said in its monthly bulletin for July.

The global crisis effectively reversed two years of

job growth, the central bank added.

The sectors hit hardest were industry and construction, and after initially benefiting from real-estate booms, Ireland and Spain in particular then "suffered disproportionately large falls in employment," the report said.

It forecast that job losses could become entrenched, and that significant restructuring "will inevitably bring about permanent reductions in employment in these sectors."

Four key steps to a sales-promoting guarantee!

by KenVarga



Hi, I am Ken Varga. I want to share with you some of the ideas, strategies, and principles that allowed me to build 35 businesses during my career.

By earnestly applying the ideas, you will learn how you too can build your business to success, while living an unhurried life, filled with family, friends, fun and a relaxed attitude.

In this tip, I'm going to talk about guarantees.

Many very experienced marketers don't fully understand how to structure a great guarantee.

"How to structure a believable, sales promoting guarantee that removes the risk from your customer and yet does not put you in a bind."

You all know that you must guarantee every product that you sell in one way or another. That's because if it's really that good, then you shouldn't be afraid of returns.

Now if you sell a bad product or are trying to pull the wool over your customer's eyes, then perhaps you shouldn't be reading this article. And I'll go one step further. You shouldn't be allowed to be in business.

A guarantee builds credibility.

There are numerous ways you can do guarantees. However, keep in mind, if your product isn't good, a guarantee could wipe you out very quickly. Don't bother selling, let alone guaranteeing, products you don't believe in or that are just not good.

Here's some general thought about guarantees, but I go in much deeper on guarantees in my book.

1. The longer the guarantee period, the better. This adds credibility, plus, believe it or not, may cut down on returns, because buyers perceive they have plenty of time to return the product and then they simply forget about it.

The guarantee on my products is a LIFETIME GUARANTEE.

2. The less strings attached, the more orders you will get. Naturally a no questions asked guarantee would work best.

3. Try to give a bonus with the purchase that the buyer gets to keep even if they return the product. If you look at the very successful Direct Marketing Gurus, you'll get a very good example of what I mean. Sometimes I feel that they over bonus and it become an offer the recipient can't refuse.

4. If you're a risk-taker, consider a guarantee where you won't cash the check until 30 days after the purchase.

All of this, puts the burdened of proof upon you, the seller. For the buyer, the purchase is risk free.

But remember, as men-

tioned above: Make sure your product is worthwhile. It does you no good to sell 200 widgets if 180 of them are returned.

Naturally you can have conditions to your guarantees. For some products they are essential.

For example:

a. You can require the buyer to return the product in good condition, particularly if it's something they could ruin by misuse.

b. You might require that they actually use the product and be able to prove it with cancelled checks, receipts or whatever. This might be appropriate for a book on how to start a business. Again, see if it's appropriate for your product.

The whole idea is to balance the need for orders with the need to lessen your own risk. Ultimately, you must test your guarantees and find the one that works best for you. More than likely, if your product is really good, you'll find a no-time limit, 100%, no-questions asked, money-back guarantee will work best.

Read my guarantee on the web site to get a real good idea of how to model your guarantee.

To your success,
Ken Varga

Ph: 888-682-2596; Fax: 888-682-2597
Email: ken@kenvarga.com
Website: www.kenvarga.com
...helping businesses increase customer acquisition by up to 32.7% in as little as 3 to 6 months, and increase customer retention by up to 90%.

Wall Street overhaul clears Senate, heads to Obama

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The US Senate gave final approval yesterday to the most sweeping rewrite of Wall Street rules since the Great Depression of the 1930s, handing President Barack Obama a legacy-shaping political victory.

The largely party-line 60-39 vote sent the 2,300-page legislation, meant to rein in risky big bank practices blamed for the 2008 global economic meltdown, to Obama, who was expected to sign it into law next week.

In a sign of deep US political polarization, just three of the Senate's 41 Republicans joined 55 Democrats and their two independent allies to pass

the measure, while one Democrat opposed the bill.

It was the second historic legislative triumph this year for Obama, who signed a bill overhauling US health care in March but faces poor job approval ratings in public opinion polls just months before November mid-term elections.

The bill, Obama's top domestic priority, rewrites the rules for arcane financial transactions on Wall Street as well as day-to-day consumer dealings on home mortgages, student loans, credit cards and payday lenders.

The bill creates a new consumer financial protection agency, an early-warning sys-

tem to predict and prevent the next crisis, and mechanisms aimed at liquidating rather than saving banks once deemed "too big to fail."

The legislation also closes loopholes in regulations and requires greater transparency and accountability for hedge funds, mortgage brokers and payday lenders, and arcane financial instruments called derivatives.

It also includes a somewhat diluted version of the so-called "Volcker Rule" -- named for former Fed chairman Paul Volcker -- curbing commercial banks' ability to make speculative investments that are not on behalf of clients.

Chez Matilde was “back in black” for an exciting evening of classic style



Organizer and host Bettina Daal with MC Melvin Garcia and the Shabby Chic models



On Wednesday, July 14, patrons at Chez Matilde Restaurant in Oranjestad had an unexpected treat for Bastille Day. During their dinner they were able to watch models walk a runway stretching from the back dining room out the door, demonstrating a glamorous collection of “Black on Black” for men and women, in expectation of an elegant dinner/concert to be held at the Renaissance Convention Center on July 30 featuring bands Carimi and Era.

If island fashionistas are in a quandary as to what to wear to the upcoming event, they were provided plenty of inspiration by the presentation from Aruba Trading Company, Something Different, Perry Ellis and finishing with a flourish, Shabby Chic, which demonstrated that retro headwear and accessories will distinguish even the simplest black dress.

Chez Matilde provided the

perfect backdrop for such a stylish show, which was also unique for spotlighting very attractive but very real women from all walks of life. “You don’t have to be a size zero to be glamorous and gorgeous,” was the theme of this show, which not only proved exciting for the invitees, but all those enjoying dinner at the famed Aruban restaurant

by Rosalie Klein



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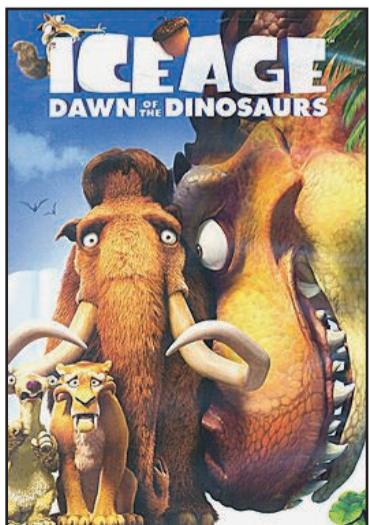
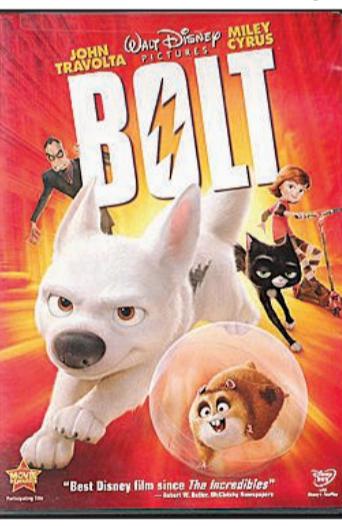
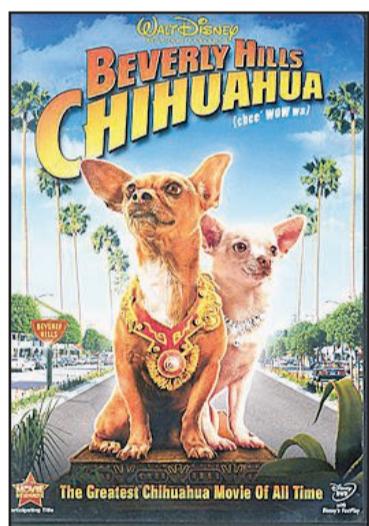
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Movie night for kids at Aruba National Library



Every year during the summer vacation, the Aruba National Library organizes special activities for the children and this

year is no exception. All kids are invited to come with their siblings or friends and watch some nice movies while having a very entertaining night. All presentations start at 7:00 p.m.

Days of presentations are:
San Nicolas: Wednesday nights, July 21 & 28 and August 4 & 11

Oranjestad: Thursday nights, July 22 & 29 and August 5 & 12.

The movies shown will be: Beverly Hills Chihuahua, Ice Age, Cloudy with a chance of meatballs, Hotel for Dogs and Bolt. And for snacking popcorn, soft drink, hotdogs and sweets will be sold at very attractive prices.

All kids are welcome.

Ancient species discovered in Barrier Reef depths



Fish swim past a coral reef on Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) – Australian scientists have discovered bizarre prehistoric sea life hundreds of kilometers below the Great Barrier Reef, in an unprecedented mission to document species under threat from ocean warming.

Ancient sharks, giant oil fish, swarms of crustaceans and a primitive shell-dwelling squid species called the Nautilus were among the astonishing life captured by remote controlled cameras at Osprey Reef.

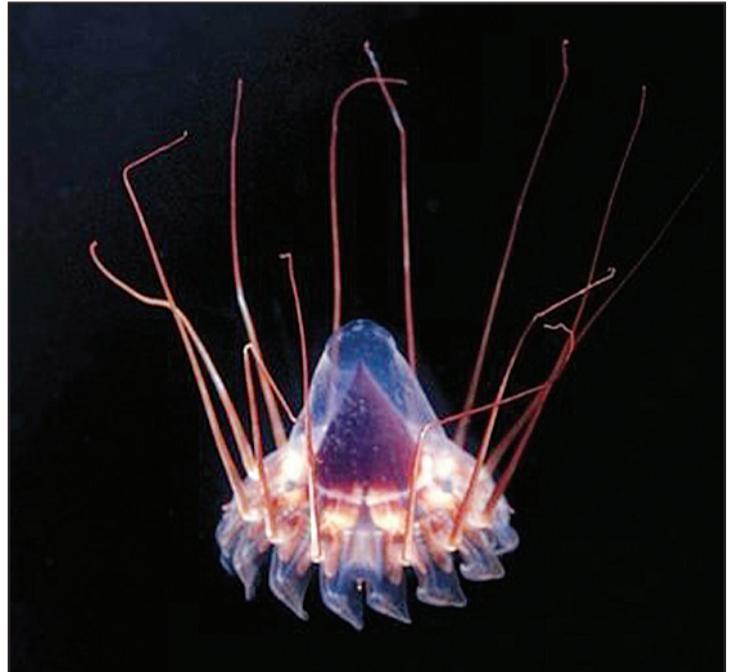
Lead researcher Justin Marshall said his team had also found several unidentifiable fish species, including "prehistoric six-gilled sharks" using special low-light sensitive cameras which were custom designed to trawl the ocean floor, 1,400 meters (4,593 feet) below sea level.

"Some of the creatures that we've seen we were sort of expecting, some of them we weren't expecting, and some of them we haven't identified yet," said Marshall, from the University of Queensland.

"There was a shark that I really wasn't expecting, which was a false cat shark, which has a really odd dorsal fin."

The team used a tuna head on a stick to attract the creatures, which live beyond the reach of sunlight.

Marshall said the research had been made more urgent by recent oil spills affecting the world heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef, and the



Bizarre prehistoric sea life hundreds of kilometres below the Great Barrier Reef.

growing threat to its biodiversity by the warming and acidification of the world's oceans.

"One of the things that we're trying to do by looking at the life in the deep sea is discover what's there in the first place, before we wipe it out," Marshall told AFP.

"We simply do not know what life is down there, and our cameras can now record the behaviour and life in Australia's largest biosphere, the deep sea," he added.

Scientists have already warned that the 345,000-square kilometer (133,000-square mile) attraction is in serious jeopardy, as global warming and chemical runoff threaten to kill marine species and cause disease outbreaks.

Chinese coal ship Shen Neng 1 gouged a three-meter scar in the reef when it ran aground whilst attempting to take a short cut on April 3, leaking tons of oil into a famed nature sanctuary and breeding site.

About 200,000 liters of heavy fuel oil spewed into waters south of the reef last March when shipping containers full of fertilizer tumbled off the Hong Kong-flagged Pacific Adventurer during a cyclone, piercing its hull.

It was one of Australia's worst ever oil spills.

Marshall said the cameras would now be sent to the sludge-ridden Gulf of Mexico to monitor the effects of the oil spill there on marine life.

Unlucky 13 for Cav as Renshaw loses head on Tour



Britain's Mark Cavendish (C) celebrates on the finish line as he wins ahead of Italy's Alessandro Petacchi (2nL) and US Tyler Farrar (L) the 184,5 km and 11th stage

BOURG-LES-VALENCE (AFP) - Britain's Mark Cavendish dominated a controversial bunch sprint on the 11th stage of the Tour de France on Thursday that led to the disqualification of his team-mate Mark Renshaw.

Luxembourg's Andy Schleck, of Saxo Bank, retained the yellow jersey with his lead of 41sec on Spain's Alberto Contador intact after a 184.5km race between Sisteron and here.

Cavendish, the winner of six stages in 2009 and four in 2008, has now won three stages in this year's race, taking his career tally to an impressive 13.

In doing so, the Isle of Man sprinter surpasses the 12-stage victory tally of several notable sprinters including German great Erik Zabel, Italian Mario Cipollini and Australian Robbie McEwen.

Cavendish's 13th victory in the race, however, will also be remembered for the controversy that led up to it.

As HTC-Columbia wound up the speed inside the final kilometre in a bid to drop rivals and deliver Cavendish to the 200 metres to go mark, his lead-out man Renshaw was shown by television pictures to have tried to headbutt Julian Dean three times.

Australian Renshaw is

considered one of the world's best lead-out men, whose job is to crank up the pace in the final kilometre of the race and fend off rivals before the sprinter launches his final drive for the line.

But even that status did not save him from race officials, who quickly took action.

Top race official Jean-Francois Pescheux said after the race: "Renshaw was declassified immediately but we have decided to also throw him off the race.

"We've only seen the pictures once, but his actions are plain for all to see. He tried to hit him with his head, a bit like in the keirin.

"This is a bike race, not a gladiator's arena. Everyone could have crashed today."

Tyler Farrar, whose Garmin-Transitions team had promised to challenge Cavendish's domination prior to the stage, had tried to sneak up the barriers on the inside of Cavendish only to have Renshaw then veer to the left to block him.

The American said HTC-Columbia's win-at-all-costs tactics were simply uncalled for.

"Everything was going great. I was on Julian's wheel and he took me up to Cavendish's wheel with 300 metres to go," said Farrar.

"When Cavendish launched his sprint, Renshaw veered to the left and I had to put my hand on his back to steady myself.

"They just don't need to race like that."

Semenya triumphs on 800m return



LAPPEENRANTA (AFP) - South African world champion Caster Semenya won the 800 metres at a meet here on Thursday, on her return to action after an 11-month absence due to doubts about her gender.

Semenya's winning time was 2min 04.22sec, which was far from the personal

best of 1:55.45 that she set when she won at the World Championships in Berlin in August 2009.

"I'm very happy," Semenya told AFP immediately after finishing.

Finland's Mari Jaervenpaese finished second in a time of 2:04.71, with Ukraine's Olga Jekimenko

third after completing the two laps in 2:05.00.

"It's better to run. I don't say I feel better about what happened," Semenya told reporters after signing autographs for children.

"I forgot about it a long time ago. It was nice to come back. It is a new beginning actually."

The 19-year-old was authorised to resume competing on July 6 after a review of gender-verification tests by global governing body the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

She is due to race in two or three further events in Europe before deciding whether to compete at the Commonwealth Games in India in October and she said she was pleased by her return.



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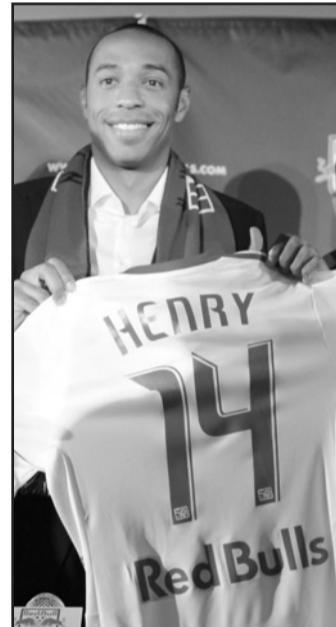
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Henry retires from international football



HARRISON (AFP) - French striker Thierry Henry on Thursday confirmed that he has retired from international football after making 123 appearances and scoring a record 51 goals for France.

Appearing at a press conference at the Red Bull Arena here following the officialisation of his move to Major League Soccer side the New York Red Bulls, the 32-year-old explained the reasons behind his decision.

"I've worn (the French shirt) 123 times and I've always had goosebumps when I've worn the blue jersey," he said.

"But you have to know

when to stop. There are young players coming through."

Henry, who arrives in America from Spanish champions Barcelona, dismissed suggestions that he was winding down his career.

"When you join a club you always try to win the title, which is what I'll do here," he said, adding that football was on the rise in the United States.

"Twenty-five million people watched the final of the World Cup.

"It's extraordinary."

Henry earned his first cap for France in a friendly against South Africa in October 1997 and played his final international game against the same side, as France bowed out of the World Cup at the group phase with a 2-1 defeat by the hosts last month following a disastrous campaign.

Between those two games, Henry's career in French colours touched soaring highs and miserable lows.

His tally of 51 international goals was 10 goals more than the mark of 41 set down by former France great Michel Platini.

With 123 caps, Henry trails only Lilian Thuram (142) in the list of his country's all-time appearance makers.



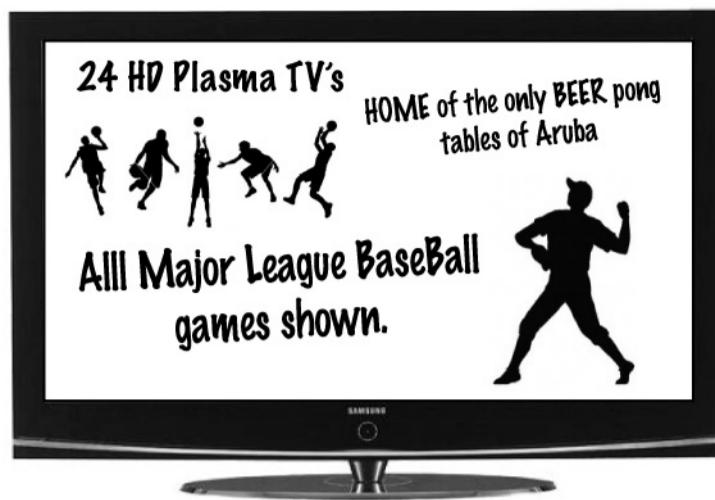
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Rory roars at Open after stunning eagle



ST. ANDREWS (AFP) - Two stunning strokes on the short par-four ninth turned what had been an average round into something special for Irish tyro Rory McIlroy at the British Open on Thursday.

"I hit a driver off the tee and just holed a putt straight up the hill," was how the 21-year-old rising star of world golf nonchalantly described the eagle that fired him up in the opening round.

Nine holes later, he walked off with a stunning nine-under par 63 and a two-stroke lead in the 150th anniversary edition of golf's pre-eminent tournament.

"The round was going OK, one-under through eight holes, nothing special, and then the eagle on nine really got me going," he said.

"I had missed a few chances early on, and I was going up the seventh hole at one under par and saying to myself, 'If we can turn in 33 here, 3-under par, it would be a good front nine and get going from there.'

"I was able to do that and

it just kicked on from there.

"I think it does take something in your round, a little spark, a little something to get you going, and I think that was the point today where my round really got going."

In so doing, McIlroy equalled the low round in any major, becoming the 22nd man to fire a 63, and is only the eighth player in British Open history with a 63, the second at St. Andrews after Englishman Paul Broadhurst in 1990's third round.

Everyone knew that McIlroy would be among the favourites to win here this week despite his youth, but the manner in which he did it will leave many of his rivals quaking in their golf shoes.

"It was a fantastic score," said two-times former winner Padraig Harrington of his fellow Irishman's effort.

"Puts him in great position for the next three days. If he plays average the next two days, he'll still have a chance on Sunday."

McIlroy is one of those

who rate the Old Course at St. Andrews as their favourite course in the world, one which inspires him to achieve great things.

In all the times he has played the course since his first outing in June, 2007 he has yet to post a score worse than 69.

"I just love the place," he said.

"I love St. Andrews in general, and I'm coming in here with a lot of great memories."

"I've played well round here before. This is my best ever round, around here and it fits my eye really well."

"You know, the second shots, as long as you put your ball in the fairway here, the second shots seem to set up well for me."

McIlroy revealed that there is another factor driving him on this week and that is the inspiration he drew from fellow Ulsterman and close friend Graeme McDowell's breakthrough win in the US Open last month.

The two often play together in practice rounds and were a successful pairing at the last Ryder Cup in Kentucky in 2008.

Nine years his elder, McDowell has become something of a big brother to McIlroy and his triumph at Pebble Beach has convinced him that his time for a win in a major is now.

"I always thought a major was a little farther away than it probably is," he said.

"I thought maybe another two or three or four years of development in my game, I'd be ready to challenge for majors."

"But seeing Graeme win at Pebble Beach made me realise that it might not be as far away as I thought it was."

Steinbrenner, Sheppard to be honored Friday



Steinbrenner

NEW YORK -- The Yankees will hold a tribute to commemorate the lives and recognize the deaths of George Steinbrenner and Bob Sheppard before Friday's game against the Rays.

The pregame ceremony will include a video tribute to Steinbrenner, the former Yankees chairman and principal owner, who died Tuesday at age 80, as well as a moment of silence for "The Boss" and Sheppard, the club's longtime public address announcer.

The game starts at 7:05 p.m. ET.

Additional ceremonies will take place Saturday during Old-Timers' Day, and more tributes will be revealed Friday.

During Friday's ceremony, a wreath will be placed in

front of Steinbrenner's statue in the Gate 2 Executive Lobby of Yankee Stadium, and another will be placed in front of Sheppard's plaque in Monument Park.

Army Sgt. 1st Class MaryKay Messenger will sing the national anthem, and the West Point Color Guard will present the colors.

Steinbrenner purchased the Yankees in 1973, and under his leadership, the club enjoyed a Major League-best seven World Series championships, including last year's triumph over the Phillies, which the players dedicated to Steinbrenner.

Sheppard, who worked his first game at Yankee Stadium in 1951 and was dubbed "The Voice of God" by slugger Reggie Jackson, died Sunday at age 99. He worked his last game in September 2007, but recorded audio for the Stadium's closing date in September 2008, as well as the introduction Derek Jeter has pledged to continue using for each at-bat.

The Yankees and all Minor League affiliates will wear commemorative uniform patches to honor Steinbrenner and Sheppard for the remainder of the season.

Warriors sold for record 450 million dollars - report

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Boston Celtics minority partner Joe Lacob and Mandalay Entertainment chairman Peter Gruber have won the bid to buy the NBA's Golden State Warriors for a record price, CNBC reported.

An article posted on CNBC.com on Thursday put the price at 450 million dollars, surpassing the previous record paid for an NBA franchise - 401 million dollars paid by Robert Sarver for the

Phoenix Suns in 2004.

Lacob and Gruber beat out Oracle chief Larry Ellison, who had been considered the favorite to buy the team from Chris Cohan.

Cohan bought the club in 1995 for 119 million dollars. The franchise was valued at 315 million dollars by Forbes in December of last year.

The Warriors have made the playoffs only once since Cohan bought the team.

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